PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

3040 Post Oak Blvd, Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056-6582
TEL 713.623.4844
FAX 713.623.4846

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: March 19, 2007

FILE NO: ROC920030238US1 (IBM/K30238)

TO: MAIL STOP AF

Examiner Leon Jonathan Harper

FAX NO: 1-571-273-8300

FROM: Randol W. Read/CTS

PAGE(S) with cover: 20

RE:

TITLE: FEDERATED ANNOTATION BROWSER
U.S. SERIAL NO.: 10/600,390
FILING DATE: 6/20/03
INVENTOR(S): Chatterjee et al.
EXAMINER: Leon Jonathan Harper
GROUP ART UNIT: 2166
CONFIRMATION NO.: 7557

Attached are the following document(s) for the above-referenced application:

Appeal Brief

555079_1.DOC

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920030238US1
PS Ref. No.: IBM/K30238

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of:
Chatterjee et al.

Serial No.: 10/600,390

Filed: 6/20/03

For: FEDERATED ANNOTATION BROWSER

Confirmation No.: 7557

Group Art Unit: 2166

Examiner: Leon Jonathan Harper

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 571-273-8300 to the attention of Examiner Leon Jonathan Harper, or electronically transmitted via EFS-Web, on the date shown below:

March 19, 2007
Date

Randol W. Read

Dear Sir:

APPEAL BRIEF

Applicants submit this Appeal Brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on appeal from the decision of the Examiner of Group Art Unit 2166 dated November 2, 2006, finally rejecting claims 9, 11-18 and 25. The final rejection of claims 9, 11-18 and 25 is appealed. This Appeal Brief is believed to be timely since it is facsimile transmitted by the due date of April 2, 2007, as set by the filing of a Notice of Appeal on February 2, 2007. Please charge the fee of $500.00 for filing this brief to Deposit Account No. 09-0465/ROC920030238US1.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Real Party in Interest

The present application has been assigned to International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, New York.

Related Appeals and Interferences

Applicant asserts that no other appeals or interferences are known to the Applicant, the Applicant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

Status of Claims

Claims 9, 11-18 and 25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-35 were originally presented in the application. Claims 1-8, 10, 19-24 and 26-35 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 9, 11-18 and 25 stand finally rejected as discussed below. The final rejections of claims 9, 11-18 and 25 are appealed. The pending claims are shown in the attached Claims Appendix.

Status of Amendments

All claim amendments prior to the Final office Action have been entered by the Examiner. Proposed amendments to the claims after the final rejection were not entered.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Claimed embodiments of the invention provide for methods, systems, and articles of manufacture for ...

A. CLAIM 9 - INDEPENDENT

Claim 9 is directed to a system for sharing information between one or more users engaged in analyzing data. (See paragraph [0031]). The system comprising one or more applications for manipulating data. (See Figure 2, item 120; paragraph [0045]). The system also comprising an annotation store for storing annotations created for data manipulated by the one or more applications (see Figure 2, item 130; paragraphs [0049] and [0050]) and an annotation browser configured to access the annotation store and provide one or more graphical user interfaces for creating and viewing annotations for data manipulated by the one or more applications. (See Figure 2, item 126; paragraph [0049]). The annotation browser is configured to display annotations and links to associated annotated data objects. (See paragraphs [0123] and [0124]). Selecting the links to the associated data objects causes an application used to manipulate the associated data objects to be invoked. (See paragraph [0124]).

B. CLAIM 25 - INDEPENDENT

Claim 25 is directed to a system for managing annotations for one or more different type data sources manipulated by one or more applications. (See paragraph [0031]). The system comprising an annotation database for storing annotations separately from the data sources associated with the annotations (see Figure 2, item 130; paragraphs [0049] and [0050]), a set of annotatable data object points defining portions of the data sources associated with the annotations described by the associated annotations (see Figure 3A, item 117 and item 113; paragraphs [0056]-[0058]), a set of annotation structures, each defining a set of annotation fields (see paragraph [0095]), and a set of plug-in components, each for interfacing between one or

more applications and an annotation server (see Figure 2, item 122; paragraph [0048]). In addition the system also comprises an annotation server configured to receive, via the plug-in components, requests to access annotations for one or more of the annotatable data object points issued by the one or more of the applications running on the client computer and generate a graphical user interface screen, based on an annotation structure associated with the one or more of the annotatable data object points, for creating or viewing annotations for the one or more annotatable data object points. (See Figure 3A, item 140; paragraphs [0046] and [0095]-[0099]). The system also comprises a browser application configured to browse annotations in the annotation store wherein the browser is configured to access annotations in the annotation store independently of applications in which the annotation were created and provide links to annotated data objects, wherein selecting the links to the associated data objects causes an application used to manipulate the associated data objects to be invoked. (See Figure 2, item 126; paragraph [0049]; paragraphs [0123]-[0124]).

Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

1. Rejection of claims 9, 11-18 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bargeron et al.* (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0205545, hereinafter, "*Bargeron*") in view of *Bays et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,519,603, hereinafter, "*Bays*") and in further view of *Anderson et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,537,526, hereinafter, "*Anderson*"), and in further view of *Nolan et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,253,362, hereinafter, "*Nolan*").

ARGUMENTS

Rejection of claims 9, 11-18 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bargeron et al.* (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0205545, hereinafter, "*Bargeron*") in view of *Bays et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,519,603, hereinafter, "*Bays*") and in further view of *Anderson et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,537,526, hereinafter, "*Anderson*"), and in further view of *Nolan et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,253,362, hereinafter, "*Nolan*").

The Applicable Law

The Examiner bears the initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *See* MPEP § 2142. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *See* MPEP § 2143. The present rejection fails to establish at least the first and third criterion.

The References

Bargeron is directed to an annotation framework for creating annotations. (Abstract). The annotation framework in *Bargeron* allows annotations to be created for various content and in a variety of applications. (Column 1, paragraph 21).

Bays is directed to capturing annotations for database material. (Abstract). Specifically, *Bays* is directed to capturing annotations for database material in a way that allows both the underlying database material and the annotations to be queried. (Id.). In addition to the ability to query annotations, *Bays* provides an order for users to enter the annotations. (Column 2, lines 47-50).

Nolan is directed to an automated records management system. (Column 1, lines 56-57). More particularly, *Nolan* is directed to a method of storing and retrieving annotations for data objects. (Column 1, lines 51-54).

Anderson is directed to an object-oriented document architecture which provides system level support for multiple document processing features. (Abstract). The purpose of the framework in *Anderson* is to raise the base level of applications by enabling the new document processing features. (Column 3, lines 33-50). *Anderson* provides an apparatus for creating bidirectional connections called links between two anchors, wherein the anchors refer to data within a document. (Column 4, lines 12-20).

The Examiner's Argument

Regarding claims 9 and 25, the Examiner argues that the *Anderson* teaches the an *annotation browser configured to display annotations and links to associated annotated data objects wherein selecting the links to the associated data objects causes an application used to manipulate the associated data objects to be invoked.* Specifically, the Examiner argues that *Anderson* teaches displaying annotations and links to associated annotated data objects at column 5, lines 6-11, and the Examiner argues that *Anderson* teaches selecting the links to the associated data objects at column 4, lines 36-40.

Applicants' Response to the Examiner's Argument

Respectfully, Applicants submit that the cited portion of *Anderson* and, in fact, *Anderson* as a whole, fail to teach at least an annotation browser *configured to display annotations and links to associated annotated data objects wherein selecting the links to the associated data objects causes an application used to manipulate the associated data objects to be invoked*, as recited in independent claims 9 and 25.

The Examiner argues that *Anderson* discloses an annotation browser configured to display *annotations and links to associated annotated data objects* at column 5, lines 6-11. However, the links referred to by the Examiner and described in *Anderson* are not displayed to a user, as recited in claims 9 and 25. In contrast, the links in *Anderson* are

simply connections between anchors within a document. (Figure 2, item 204; Column 4, Lines 15-19). The anchors described in *Anderson* are associated with or refer to data (*e.g.*, text) which a user may be editing. (Figure 2, items 202 and 206; column 4, Lines 17-22). Anderson states that an anchor may be scrolled into view (column 4, line 39). Therefore, an Anchor may be visible in Anderson. However, in contrast to an anchor and in contrast to the claim language *Anderson* states that the existence of a link links may be transparent to the user. (see column 5, lines 11-12). Thus, in *Anderson* links are not displayed as recited in the claims, rather anchors and data associated with anchors are displayed. Therefore, Anderson fails to teach at least displaying *annotations and links to associated data objects* as recited in the claims.

Although in *Anderson* a link may be used to associate an annotation with part of a document to which the annotation refers, the link and the annotation are not displayed as recited in the claims. (Column 4, line 62 – Column 5, line 3). Rather, only a representation of the annotation (*e.g.*, a posted note icon) and the part of the document to which the annotation refers is displayed. (Column 4, Line 64-66). Thus, in Anderson only annotations and the part of the document to which the annotation refers is displayed. Consequently, the *Anderson* reference fails to teach displaying annotations and links to associated annotated data objects as recited in the claims.

Furthermore, because the links in Anderson are not displayed to a user, there is no teaching of *selecting a link*, and certainly no teaching of *invoking an application used to manipulate the associated data objects in response to selecting the link*. The Examiner argues that *Anderson* teaches selecting the links to the associated data objects at column 4, lines 36-40, which states:

> Once the user creates a link, the user can operate on it. First, the user can navigate from one end of the link to the other. In general, this involves opening the document containing the target anchor, scrolling the anchor into view, and highlighting the corresponding selection.

The text cited by the Examiner clearly does not teach selecting a link, rather the text specifically states that a "selection" is highlighted in order to navigate from one end of the link to the other end of the. The selection which is highlighted in Anderson

"corresponds" to the anchor, which previously in Anderson was said to refer to data or a word within a text block. (See column 4, lines 19-23). Consequently, in *Anderson* a user is not selecting a link as recited in the claims rather the user is highlighting a selection (*i.e.*, text or data) which is associated with an anchor. Thus, Anderson fails to teach *selecting a link* as recited in the claims.

Furthermore, because a user is highlighting a selection in Anderson in contrast to selecting a link as recited in the claims, the claim limitation of *invoking an application used to manipulate the associated data objects in response to selecting the link* is also not taught by the Anderson reference. In contrast, if any application is invoked in *Anderson*, it would be in response to highlighting a selection rather than in response to selecting a link. Thus, *Anderson* fails to teach of *invoking an application used to manipulate the associated data objects in response to selecting the link* as recited in the claims.

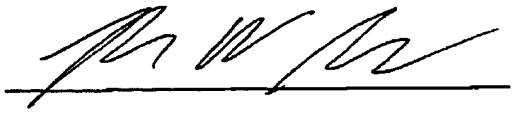
Therefore, the claims are believed to be allowable, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner errs in finding that claims 9, 11-18 and 25 are unpatentable over *Bargeron* in view of *Bays* and in further view of *Anderson*, and in further view of *Nolan* under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Randol W. Read
Registration No. 43,876
Patterson & Sheridan, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Appellants

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A system for sharing information between one or more users engaged in analyzing data, comprising:

one or more applications for manipulating data;

an annotation store for storing annotations created for data manipulated by the one or more applications;

an annotation browser configured to access the annotation store and provide one or more graphical user interfaces for creating and viewing annotations for data manipulated by the one or more applications wherein the annotation browser is configured to display annotations and links to associated annotated data objects; and wherein selecting the links to the associated data objects causes an application used to manipulate the associated data objects to be invoked.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the annotation browser is configured to display data and indications of what displayed data has one or more corresponding annotations.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the annotation browser is configured to display one or more annotation icons proximate to an annotated data object.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein:

at least one common annotation describes more than one data object; and

the annotation browser is configured to display a common annotation icon proximate to data objects described by the common annotation.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the annotation browser is configured to display different annotation icons proximate to data objects described by different annotations.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the annotation browser is configured to display a first annotation icon to indicate a displayed data object has a single annotation and a second annotation icon to indicate a displayed data object has multiple annotations.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the annotation browser is configured to display a first portion of annotation data from an annotation, in response to a user positioning a cursor over an associated annotation icon.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the annotation browser is further configured to, in response to the user selecting the annotation icon, display a second portion of annotation data from the annotation.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the annotation browser is further configured to, in response to the user selecting the annotation icon, retrieve the second portion of annotation data from the annotation store.

19-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A system for managing annotations for one or more different type data sources manipulated by one or more applications, comprising:

an annotation database for storing annotations separately from the data sources associated with the annotations;

a set of annotatable data object points defining portions of the data sources associated with the annotations described by the associated annotations;

a set of annotation structures, each defining a set of annotation fields;

a set of plug-in components, each for interfacing between one or more applications and an annotation server; and

an annotation server configured to receive, via the plug-in components, requests to access annotations for one or more of the annotatable data object points issued by the one or more of the applications running on the client computer and generate a graphical user interface screen, based on an annotation structure associated with the

one or more of the annotatable data object points, for creating or viewing annotations for the one or more annotatable data object points; and

a browser application configured to browse annotations in the annotation store wherein the browser is configured to access annotations in the annotation store independently of applications in which the annotation were created and provide links to annotated data objects, wherein selecting the links to the associated data objects causes an application used to manipulate the associated data objects to be invoked.

26-35. (Canceled)

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920030238US1
PS Ref. No.: IBMK30238

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.